

Appl. No. 09/937,942
Reply dated March 20, 2006
Reply to Office action of September 20, 2005

REMARKS/INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 remain in this application.

Applicant and the undersigned thank the Examiner for the courtesy of granting a telephonic interview on January 5, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner confirmed Applicant's understanding that the Office Action mailed September 20, 2005 was a non-final Office Action.

During the interview, the undersigned proposed amending Claim 1 to more clearly describe the invention. Claim 1 has been amended in the present Response. No new matter has been added.

Applicant further explained the criticality of grafting to the Examiner. The Examiner requested that Applicant submit this explanation in writing to the Examiner, and such submission would be considered fully responsive to the Office Action of September 20, 2005. Likewise, in view of the interview, the Examiner stated that arguments were not required in this Response to be fully responsive. Accordingly, Applicant submits the explanation discussed with the Examiner in writing below, and submits that this Response is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action in accordance with the Examiner's instructions.

In particular, the Examiner asked why the grafting teaching was critical. Such teaching is found in the present application at least on page 5, lines 7-11 and is claimed in Claim 1. Grafting is a process in which the additive agent is bound to the surface of the carrier material. For example, grafting could include the co-milling of an insoluable agent with a polymer. It is especially critical that the wound healing factors be grafted to

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the pad because of the use of negative pressure application to the wound. Negative pressure application, as described in col. 2, lines 13-15 of the present application, further supports the criticality of grafting, because the application of negative pressure "typically involves mechanical-like contraction of the wound with *simultaneous removal of excess fluid.*" (Emphasis added.)

If the pad were to be adapted for a controlled release of an incorporated agent, such as taught in *Gibbins* and referenced in a prior Response, the agent would necessarily be removed by the use of negative pressure as it is released from the carrier material. The purpose of grafting a wound healing factor into the pad is to promote wound healing in a wound in combination with beneficial effects of negative pressure application to the wound. The mechanical-like contractions associated with negative pressure treatment bring the wound bed in contact with the wound healing factor, without removing the wound healing factor due to the grafting of the factor on the pad. Therefore, it is critical that the wound healing factor not be released, but rather be grafted into the pad to prevent the removal of the wound healing factor. Such removal would inherently happen in a negative pressure environment if the factor were not grafted to the carrier.

Further reference materials pertaining to grafting were submitted in Applicant's response filed July 26, 2005.

In light of the foregoing explanation, believing that all things required by the Examiner in the January 5, 2006 interview in order to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed September 20, 2005 have been addressed, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the prior rejections and objections, as well as allowance of

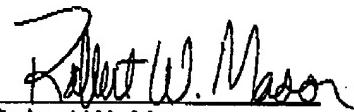
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the claims and passage of the application to issue. If the Examiner would care to discuss any remaining matters by phone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 210.255.6271.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment made with this Office Action, to Deposit Account Number 500326.

Respectfully submitted,



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